



**Iowa Department of Public Health**  
Promoting and Protecting the Health of Iowans

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Gerd W. Clabaugh, MPA  
Director

Terry E. Branstad  
Governor

Kim Reynolds  
Lt. Governor

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RE: IDPH Processes/Protections in Administering the Iowa Youth Survey

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) administers the Iowa Youth Survey (IYS) every two years to gather useful information for local and state planners about the attitudes and experiences of Iowa students. Survey information spotlights emerging trends and needs that help determine local and state health promotion and prevention priorities for subsequent years. IDPH most recently administered the IYS in 2008, 2010, 2012, and 2014. Additional information about the IDPH Iowa Youth Survey may be found at [http://www.idph.state.ia.us/bh/sa\\_youth\\_survey.asp](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/bh/sa_youth_survey.asp) and at <http://www.iowayouthsurvey.iowa.gov/>.

IDPH holds legal authority to administer the IYS in accordance with Iowa Code section 135.11(30) which states IDPH shall: “Administer the Iowa Youth Survey, in collaboration with other state agencies, as appropriate every two years to students in grades six, eight, and eleven in Iowa’s public and nonpublic schools. Survey data shall be evaluated and reported, with aggregate data available online at the Iowa Youth Survey internet site.”

IDPH has established specific processes and protections for administering the Iowa Youth Survey and conducting related activities. These processes and protections comply with federal and Iowa laws and with IDPH policies. The processes and protections address, but are not limited to: coordination with schools; informed consent; participant confidentiality; and data collection, management, confidentiality, and reporting. All IDPH processes and protections related to participant and data confidentiality are reviewed and approved by the Iowa Attorney General’s Office.

**Iowa Department of Public Health Iowa Youth Survey processes and protections apply only when the survey is administered by IDPH.** The processes and protections do not apply when the IYS or similar surveys are administered by any other organization or person. *Any use of the Iowa Youth Survey, IYS variations, or other surveys of students by any party other than the Iowa Department of Public Health must not reference IDPH or the Iowa Attorney General’s Office, or state or infer such use is approved or endorsed by IDPH or the Iowa Attorney General’s Office.* Any other person or organization administering the Iowa Youth Survey or IYS variation is legally responsible for such administration and should consult with legal counsel to ensure that survey administration conforms with federal and state laws.

Questions about the IDPH Iowa Youth Survey may be directed to Pat McGovern, IDPH program manager, at [pat.mcgovern@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:pat.mcgovern@idph.iowa.gov).